

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-02 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-14

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-12 PRS-01 SAL-01 OMB-01

AF-10 ARA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 OIC-04 RSR-01 /225 W

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R 291018 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1902

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR: OCON: ECAFE

SUBJECT: RED: ECAFE: 29 TH SESSION: COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEM NINE

1. RECOMMEND THAT USDEL STATEMENT BEGIN WITH REVIEW OF RECENT TRENDS IN US- ECAFE TRADE, PROBLEM OF RAPID IMPORT GROWTH, THE WIDENING TRADE DEFICIT, AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SITUATION. NOTE THAT U NYUN (AND OTHERS) HAVE STATED THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAD BEEN QUOTE GRAVELY HURT UNQUOTE BY CURRENCY REVALUATIONS, WHICH HAD RESULTED IN ONE BILLION DOLLAR LOSS OF RESERVES AND HAD AGGRAVATED DEBT SERVICE BURDENS. USDEL STATEMENT SHOULD ALSO OUTLINE TRADE LEGISLATION PROPOSALS, STATUS OF PREPARATIONS FOR MTN AND US VIEWS ON ROLE OF ECAFE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN MTN.

2. AN UNCTAD/ ECAFE/ UNDP SEMINAR ON GSP HELD IN BANGKOK MARCH 1-16 CONCLUDED, INTER ALIA, THAT NON- IMPLEMENTATION OF US AND CANADIAN SCHEMES IS MATTER OF GRAVE CONCERN. ADMINISTRATION PLANS IN THIS REGARD WILL BE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST.

3. SECRETARIAT WILL REPORT ON THE STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR
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ESTABLISHING AN ASIAN CLEARING UNION. AT A MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 23-28 NINE COUNTRIES (BURMA, INDIA, IRAN, KHMER REPUBLIC, LAOS, NEPAL, PAKISTAN AND SRI LANKA) DEVELOPED AN OPERATIONAL AGREEMENT (BETWEEN CENTRAL BANKS RATHER THAN GOVERNMENTS) WHICH IS TO BE SIGNED BY CENTRAL BANK GOVERNORS OR THEIR REPS AT TOKYO. A REPORT OF THE MEETING AND TEXT OF THE DRAFT AGREEMENT HAVE NOT BEEN CIRCULATED TO NON- PARTICIPANTS; USDEL THEREFORE NEED ONLY TAKE NOTE.

4. ON ASIAN RESERVE BANK THERE HAS BEEN NO NEW ACTIVITY SINCE TRADE COMMITTEE MEETING. A US STATEMENT ALONG THE LINES OF USDEL STATEMENT AT TRADE COMMITTEE MEETING WOULD BE APPRCIATED (SEE ANNEX FOUR, STATE A-2128 MARCH 9). IN OUR VIEW ARB PROPOSAL HAS DEVELOPED INTO MOST PROMISING ELEMENT OF PACKAGE OF PROPOSALS FOR TRADE AND MONETARY COOPERATION AND COULD BE OF GREATEST BENEFIT TO MEMBER COUNTRIES. US ENDORSEMENT COSTS NOTHING, SINCE IT IS EASY ENOUGH TO EXPLAIN WHY US CANNOT MAKE CONTRIBUTION TO ARB. BIG QUESTION-MARK IS STILL GOJ POSITION; WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFO ON THIS POINT WHICH EMBASSY TOKYO CAN DEVELOP.

5. PARAGRAPH FORTY- SEVEN OF TRADE COMMITTEE REPORT 8 E/ CN.11/1078) DESCRIBES STATUS OF INTRA- REGIONAL TRADE NEGOTIATION PROGRAM. GROUND RULES CALL FOR REDUCTION OF TARIFFS AND NTB' S ON AN MFN BASIS BETWEEN PARTICIPATING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF ECAFE REGION. A. G. MATHUR AND LEONHARDT OF GATT AND HATT- ARNOOLD OF ITC HAVE ASSISTED IN DEVELOPING THIS PROGRAM, WHICH ECAFE CONSIDERS GATT-CONSISTENT. (RED REQUESTS THAT USDEL BRING COPY OF LATEST GATT TEXT).

6. WE HOPE THAT USDEL WILL BE ABLE TO ANNOUNCE THAT USG WILL PROVIDE TRADE PROMOTION EXPERT FOR PANEL OF EXPERTS TO UNDERTAKE THE NECESSARY TASK OF DRAWING UP REALISTIC AND EFFECTIVE PROGRAM FOR ECAFE TRADE PROMOTION CENTER (SEE BANGKOK 4345).

7. FINALLY, US STATEMENT NEEDS TO MENTION CONTINUING PROBLEM OF DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY IN FIELD OF SHIPPING. WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED THAT A REFORMULATION OF THE PROGRAM OF WORK, AS REQUESTED IN PARAGRAPH EIGHTY- FIVE OF THE TRADE COMMITTEE REPORT, WILL BE SUBMITTED, ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS DISAGREEMENT WITHIN THE SECRETARIAT OVER THE DRAFT OF THIS DOCUMENT. (THE REFERENCE TO PARAGRAPH NINETY- ONE IN PARAGRAPH NINETY- SIX OF THE TC REPORT IS INCORRECT). ASSUMING THAT SUCH A DOCUMENT WILL BE PRESENTED, USDEL SHOULD SUGGEST OR ENDORSE A PREVIOUS SUGGESTION

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THAT THE TECHNICAL AND DRAFTING COMMITTEE BE CHARGED WITH EXAMINING IT CAREFULLY WITH A VIEW TO ACHIEVING A CLEAR- CUT DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY BETWEEN THE TRADE DIVISION (ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF SHIPPING) AND THE TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION (TECHNICAL ASPECTS). (SEE ALSO PARAGRAPH SIX OF BANGKOK 4211).

8. PARAGRAPH TWO OF BANGKOK 4857 SUGGESTS ADDITIONAL ITEM FOR USDEL STATEMENT.
UNGER

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